taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). There is constant interaction between French and Indian businessmen to enhance bilateral trade. With this objective a delegation of French businessmen visited India in October, 1991 The French Government would also be sponsoring trade and industry delegations to assess prospects of increased trade between the two countries.

[*Translation*]

Seizure of Ivory and Ivory Products

5030 DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of seizure of ivory and ivory products have increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the states where such cases have come to light;

(d) whether the export and marketing of the seized ivory and ivory goods is permissible;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the quantity and the value of these items exported during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (f) The required information is being collected from various Departments of the Government and concerned field formations, and the compiled information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Spices

5031 DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of spices has decreased during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the value of loss of foreign exchange due to this;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of spices;

(d) whether the prices of spices produced in the country are very high; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to make them competitive in the international market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken by Spices Board for increasing the export of spices include sending delegations abroad arranging buyerseller meets participating in important international fairs & exhibitions promoting export of spices in value added forms such as spice oils & oleoresins consumer packed spices upgrading the quality of Indian spices Brand Promotion Logo promotion and other regular publicity measures.

(d) the prices of most of the spices produced in the country are high compared to the spices from other producing countries.

(e) For increasing the production and productivity of spices a Central Sector Scheme for integrated development of spices is being implemented in various states during 1991-92 with an outlay of Rs. 5 crores

Various measures for increasing the production of spices include - (i) Production and distribution of improved high yielding planting material of pepper, clove and nutmeg; (ii) Production of nucleus planting material/foundation seed of pepper, ginger, turmeric, chillies and minor spices, (iii) Distribution of input-kits for pepper and minikits for minor spices; (iv) Supply of plant protection sprayers, for pepper; (v) Rehabilitation of old pepper gardens; (vi) Laying out pepper demonstration plots; (vii) Establishment of demonstration-cum-progeny gardens for spices in North Eastern region including West Bengal; and (viii) Training of farmers on processing of spices.

[English]

Setting up of Bank Note Press

5032. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up more Bank Note Presses/Mints in the country in future, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Sainik School

5033. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Sainik Schools in the country including one at Kazhakkoottam in Kerala are in a deplorable condition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the deplorable condition of the Sainik Schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR). (a) to (c). The condition in none of the 18 Sainik Schools is deplorable. However, some of the Schools have projected, to the concerned State Governments, the need to undertake certain repairs/maintenance and for creation/provision of additional facilities. As necessary, the Ministry of Defence has also taken up these issues with the concerned State Governments, who are responsible for providing the requisite facilities.

Expenditure Tax Collections

5034. SHRI V S VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

The total revenue collected by the Union Government through expenditure tax on air-conditioned restaurants and hotels during 1991-92, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The data regarding collection of expenditure tax in the Financial year 1991-92 has not yet been compiled state-wise. Provisional figures of collection upto February, 1992, Zonal Accounts Office wise are given in the statement enclosed.